

CHAP. III.

Containing a Description of the Picture Gallery.

WHEN we leave the hall, the next place we are conducted to is a long gallery full of paintings, where, generally speaking, we are very politely received by one Mr. *Interpreter*., whose business it is to look after the pictures, and explain the meaning of them to strangers; for which purpose he carries a long wand in his hand, that he may point to the figures which he gives you an account of. Sometimes, indeed, you will meet with the giant himself, who takes a particular pleasure in viewing his paintings; which are indeed very fine ones, being all of them executed by the most able masters in the country. If he happens to be there, you must not fail to pay him the respect he deserves; and though he is the governor of the place, and as rich as a king, he will always re-
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turn the compliment, and, if possible, even out-do you in civility. But when he asks you any questions, which he will, tho' never any impertinent ones, you must be very careful to speak the truth; for if he once catches you in a lie, which he hates and abhors, he will bid you begone with such a terrible voice, that he will make the whole castle, and, indeed, the whole island, shake for it. So you must be sure, I say, to tell him the truth; which if you do, he will then attend you himself, and explain the design of every picture you see, with as much good-nature as if you were his own brother: nay, he is so extremely complaisant, that he will take a delight in answering any question that you may think it necessary to ask him, be they ever so many. A fine example this to the young ladies and gentlemen of Great-Britain, who, some of them, are so very proud and inhospitable, that they are displeased even to see a stranger enter their doors.

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